

Minutes from the General Faculty Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 9, 2008
Newcomb 481

Present

Ottillie Austin, Beth Blanton-Kent, David Glover, Kevin King, Robin Kuzen, Teresa Lockard, Pam MacIntyre, Peter Norton, Ricky Patterson, Marshall Pattie, Lynda White for Phil Gates, David Wolcott

Absent

Dawn Anderson, Virginia Carter, Jean Collier, Phil Gates, James Groves, Aaron Laushway, Barbara Millar, Jennie Moody, Ellen Ramsey

Guests

Richard Herskowitz, Michael Slon

1. 12:00 **Gathering of Members**

2. 12:10 **Call to Order**

- Peter Norton called the meeting to order.
- Peter distributed a letter, from a tenured faculty member objecting to the dismissal of Jill Hartz, Director of the University of Virginia Art Museum.

Business

3. 12:10 **Discussion of the Dismissal of the Director of the University of Virginia Art Museum.**

- **Background:** Jill Hartz was hired in the College of Arts and Sciences 13 years ago and has been the Director of the Art Museum for the past 11 years. On December 14, Hartz was called to a meeting with the Provost, Tim Garson, and Susan Carkeek, the Vice President for Human Resources. Hartz was told that she would not continue in her position as director. She was given two options: reassignment to University Relations for an unspecified job, or a buy-out of her contract for one full year of salary and benefits. She was given a week and a half to decide. She stated that she thought she had the expectation of continued employment and wanted legal advice. Hartz's attorney was able to get an extension to the deadline for making a decision.

The Board of Advisors to the Museum was apparently not consulted before the dismissal. The decision was based on confidential recommendations by a President's Review Committee.

A group of faculty including Ricardo Padrón met with Tim Garson just before the holidays, and recently the President's Review Committee Report was released to the Faculty Senate. There were eight people on the committee: six upper-level administrators and two Art History faculty members. The report reviewed the mission and policies of the Museum and called for a change in mission and leadership.

- **Discussion:** The Faculty Senate is investigating the issue. Council representatives noted that this is a general faculty issue and thus the GFC should also be involved. Peter suggested that the General Faculty Council join the Faculty Senate. The following actions were agreed upon:

1. Ask Tim Garson for a copy of the President's Review Committee Report.
 2. Contact the Faculty Senate re: a joint effort.
 3. Confer with Jill Hartz.
4. 1:00 **Setting a date and place for the February meeting.**
 - GFC meetings have been booked through June. All will be held in Newcomb Hall, Room 481 – except the February meeting. The room is booked for the February date. David Wolcott reserved the Trial Room on the fourth floor of Newcomb Hall for the February meeting.
5. 1:00 **Planning for the GFC Provost's meeting with the Deans.**
 - At the December meeting, Tim Garson suggested that Peter and Dawn attend one of his Dean's meetings to discuss issues of importance to the general faculty.
 - Peter suggested beginning with the preliminary results of the Faculty Senate survey (by a large margin, non-tenure-track Assistant Professors are not satisfied with the transparency of policies and governance), and suggesting how the deans could improve general faculty satisfaction.
 - Peter and Dawn will also refer the Deans to the the non-tenure-track faculty policies, because the policies are not widely known.
 - There was discussion of whether we should ask deans to urge departments to develop by-laws.
6. 1:15 **Other Business.**
 - David Wolcott received no response to his request for general faculty questions for the Dean search committee interviews. Given that the timing was close to the holidays, he agreed to draft a few questions and send them out for our review.
7. 1:15 **Committee Reports.**
 - **Elections Committee.** The on-line voting system being developed by ITC will not be available until the 2009 elections. So this year, we will continue to use the old system. The new system is being developed for both the General Faculty Council and the Faculty Senate. We need good candidates for the vacant positions.
8. 1:30 **Adjournment**

Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, February 13, 2008, 12:00 noon – 1:30 pm, Trial Room, fourth floor, Newcomb Hall